

Congressman Steve King today announced that several federal appropriations for Council Bluffs were included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

Projects for Council Bluffs included:

- \$475,000 for the City of Council Bluffs for the development of the Playland Park neighborhood

Funds will be used to implement a targeted program of single family rehabilitation and new construction, acquisition/rehabilitation of single family properties and blight removal/site development in the Playland Park neighborhood.

“This is a significant project that will bring new life to a highly visible neighborhood that serves as a gateway into Council Bluffs,” King said. “I am pleased that we were able to secure this funding to allow this important project to move forward.”

- \$237,500 for the City of Council Bluffs for 24th Street Reconstruction

Funds will be used to reconstruct 24th Street from I-80 to 23rd Avenue in order to accommodate traffic volume, improve safety and provide alternate routes for I-80 traffic.

“24th Street allows the flow of more than 11 million visitors to many of Council Bluffs’ marquee attractions,” King said. “These funds will help provide for the much needed reconstruction of the 24th Street/23rd Avenue corridor to address congestion, improve safety and ensure that this vital artery continues to support growth and development in Council Bluffs.”

- \$476,000 for Iowa Western Community College’s Nursing Center of Excellence

Funding for this project will allow Iowa Western Community College to build the new Iowa Western Nursing Center of Excellence. This center, with multiple laboratories and high-tech equipment, will train thousands of future nurses within the next decade. The new laboratories and equipment will strongly enhance substantial job creation within Iowa, improve access to health care for Iowans and expand the creation of a scientifically qualified workforce in the medical and health services arena.

“Iowa Western Community College has an impressive track record of turning out high quality nurses that are ready and willing to address the lack of critical health care for many western Iowans. This funding will help give IWCC the tools it needs

to grow its nursing program, which will have a positive, long-term effect on the current nursing shortage in western Iowa,” King said.

- \$600,000 for Heartland Family Services Residential Methamphetamine Treatment in Southwest Iowa

Funding will go to a collaborative effort between Heartland Family Services, the Iowa Department of Human Services, the courts and other social service agencies. It is a clinically managed low-intensity residential service for substance abuse patients, using Heartland Family Service’s established residential treatment and counseling facilities. The program offers women an interim residential treatment service, and at the same time allows them to continue parenting their children. Treatment is directed toward applying recovery skills, preventing relapse, promoting personal responsibility and reintegrating the patient into work, education and family life. Services include individual, group and family therapy.

“This funding will help promote a unique program that allows mothers recover from addictions while at the same time providing them the opportunity to become better parents,” King said. “I am happy to support the work that Heartland Family Services is doing, and I am confident they will have great success.”

In requesting funding for these projects, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

When Congressman King initially requested the funding in early 2008, he did so with the understanding that his requests, and those of other members, would be addressed by the House through the normal appropriations process. Instead, all member requests were lumped into a single, 1,222 page, \$410 billion spending bill that was written behind closed doors, with no legislative review or formal member input. The bill was made available for public scrutiny less than 48 hours before Members voted on it.

As a result, Congressman King opposed H.R. 1105 during House consideration of the bill on February 25. The \$410 billion “omnibus” spending bill significantly expands the federal deficit and funds the federal government for a mere seven months. That’s over \$58.5 billion in taxpayer dollars per month.